acryl is acrylonitrile.

REMARKS

The claims in the application are 1-6 and Claims 7-19 added by the present amendment.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The certified copy of priority Japanese application no. 2000-095192 is enclosed. It is respectfully requested that receipt of this certified copy be acknowledged upon the next official communication from the Patent and Trademark Office. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to eliminate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph raised in paragraph 4 of the Office Action; Claim 6 has also been amended to eliminate an informality while the specification has been amended to correct typographical errors (a marked-up copy is enclosed).

Claims 7-19 introduced herein find clear support throughout the present application. For example, Claims 7-12 and 14 find support on page 7 of the specification, while Claims 13, 18 and 19 find support at the bottom of page 6 of the specification. Claims 15 and 16 find support in the examples while Claim 17 finds support at page 5, lines 23-25.

Accordingly, the only outstanding issue is the enablement rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, raised in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. More particularly, it is asserted that the specification fails to teach how a fabric surface of 90-

110% warp and 40-80% weft can be prepared because neither the warp nor weft densities are disclosed. However, it is emphatically asserted that the disclosure found in the present application most certainly constitutes an enabling teaching of the claimed invention, for the following reasons.

While neither warp nor weft density is concretely disclosed in the present application, nevertheless one skilled in the art can quite clearly understand how to prepare the claimed invention based upon the disclosure of surface occupancy. It is self-evident that the higher the density, the higher the surface occupancy. Thus, surface occupancy most certainly constitutes a valid measure for preparing the claimed fabric and embodiments.

For example, it is explicitly disclosed at page 5, lines 18-25 of the application:

> By thus increasing the warp density of the fabric, setting the percent fabric surface occupancy of warp at 90% to 110%, allowing the fabric surface to be covered mainly with warp, further by decreasing the weft density and setting the percent fabric surface occupancy of weft at 40% to 80%, it is possible to minimize pores formed in warp-weft intersecting points. Besides, the degree of freedom of weft increases and hence the fabric becomes more flexible.

Though their definitions are different from each other, both the weaving density and the surface occupancy indicate the surface condition of the fabric. Under these circumstances, the surface condition can be defined either by the weaving density or by the surface occupancy; once surface occupancy is given, one skilled in

the art can easily obtain a fabric having the given surface occupancy by selecting an appropriate weaving density depending upon the yarn and processing conditions used.

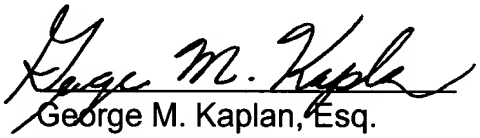
As documented by the examples and comparative testing in the present application, it has been discovered that fabric having the claimed surface occupancy, namely warp: 90-110% and weft:40-80%, constitutes an electrically conductive fabric superior in preventing back leak of coated resin, flexibility, yarn fray prevention, electrical resistivity and electromagnetic wave shielding. The surface occupancy is a simple parameter as defined in the present application, indicating the surface condition of a fabric instead of weaving density.

It is asserted in paragraph 2 of the Office Action that a fabric having 10 warps/inch results in different surface occupancy from a fabric having 30 warps/inch. Indeed, this is correct so long as other conditions such as yarn density do not differ from each other. In other words, the warp surface density of the fabric having 10 warps/inch is smaller than the fabric having 30 warps/inch. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that the disclosure in the present application constitutes a fully enabling teaching of the claimed invention even though weaving density might not be concretely disclosed, because sufficient information is provided, e.g., on page 5, concerning the weaving density.

Accordingly, in view of the forgoing amendment and accompanying remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, then it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the earliest convenience to discuss the present application. A Petition for an automatic one month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) is enclosed in triplicate together with the requisite petition fee.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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The present invention, in a still further preferred embodiment thereof, resides in the above electrically conductive fabric wherein the metal of the metal coating is at least one member selected from the group consisting of silver, copper, nickel, tin, and alloys thereof.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

The "percent fabric surface occupancy" as referred to herein is represented by:

Percent fabric surface occupancy of warp (%)

= warp width (A)/warp pitch (B) x 100

Percent fabric surface occupancy of weft (%)

= warp width (C)/weft pitch (D) x 100

in a fabric, as shown in Fig. 1. In the electrically conductive fabric of the present invention, the percent fabric surface occupancy of warp is 90% to 110% and that of weft is 10% to 80%.

By thus increasing the warp density of the fabric, setting the percent fabric surface occupancy of warp at 90% to 110%, allowing the fabric surface to be covered mainly with warp, further by decreasing the weft density and setting the percent fabric surface occupancy of weft at 10% to 80%, it is possible to minimize pores formed in warp-weft intersecting points. Besides, the degree of freedom of weft increases and hence the fabric becomes more flexible.

If the percent surface occupancy of warp is less

than 90%, the pores formed in warp-weft intersecting points become large, and if exceeds 110%, not only weavability is impaired, but also the fabric flexibility is impaired; besides, degree of overlapping between adjacent warps increases, whereby the permeation of a plating solution is obstructed at the time of plating and hence it becomes difficult to plate the interior of the fabric.

If the percent surface occupancy of weft is less than 40%, the yarn is apt to slip and it becomes difficult to effect processing, while if it exceeds 80%, the fabric becomes less flexible and the voids formed in warp-weft intersecting points become larger in size.

The fabric may be subjected to calendering for setting the percents fabric surface occupancy of the fabric constituting warp and weft at values falling under the above ranges.

By adopting the above-mentioned constitution, there can be obtained an electrically conductive fabric which, in comparison with conventional fabrics, is more flexible, exhibits less back leak of resin at the time of resin coating, and possesses high electrical conductivity and electromagnetic wave shielding property.

As examples of fibers employable in the present invention, mention may be made of synthetic fibers such as nylon (e.g., nylon 6 and nylon 66), polyester (e.g., polyethylene terephthalate) and acryl (e.g., acrylonitrile),